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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

End-of-summer crackdown nets over 1,800 drunk driving arrests in Michigan

More than 1,800 motorists failed sobriety tests and found themselves in jail during the recent *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.* drunk driving crackdown. Overall, Michigan law enforcement officers arrested 1,826 motorists for drunk driving and another 1,613 for other alcohol-related offenses during the statewide campaign that included the Labor Day holiday weekend.

More than 500 local police agencies, county sheriff's offices and Michigan State Police posts across the state focused on drunk driving from Aug. 18 – Sept. 4 as part of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning's (OHSP) statewide campaign. The results from this year's crackdown are similar to the August 2005 campaign, during which 1,844 motorists were arrested for drunk driving and 1,387 were cited for other alcohol-related offenses.

Pilot projects in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Genesee counties also allowed agencies to utilize overtime funding for warrant sweeps where officers sought out individuals who have failed to appear in court on previous alcohol-related charges. The sweeps resulted in 295 arrests on outstanding warrants, 268 of those for alcohol-related offenses.

"Unique projects, such as warrant sweeps, and additional drunk driving patrols show just how serious Michigan law enforcement is about arresting impaired drivers," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP division director. "Motorists who drove while over the limit found themselves under arrest."

According to the 288 agencies reporting statistics to OHSP, 63,354 vehicles were stopped. In addition to the alcohol arrests, there were 907 felony and 4,438 misdemeanor arrests. Officers also wrote 17,918 speeding citations and issued 2,699 safety belt citations for motorists over the age of 15 and 161 child restraint citations.

Preliminary results show there were four traffic fatalities in Michigan over the Labor Day holiday weekend, one of which involved alcohol, according to the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center.

For more specific results, including a breakdown by county, visit www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

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